

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 /080 W

-----010756Z 093075 /17

R 311132Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9122

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0795

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CF

SUBJECT: BONGO MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

1. PRESIDENT BONGO INDICATED TO ME MARCH 31 HIS BELIEF THAT INTERNAL SITUATION IN CONGO BRAZZAVILLE STILL FAR FROM SETTLED, BUT THAT OUTCOME OF CURRENT SHAKEDOWN LIKELY TO BE SLIGHTLY MORE MODERATE ORIENTATION THAN WAS CASE UNDER NGOUABI LEADERSHIP.

2. BONGO DESCRIBED LEADING FIGURES IN CURRENT COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AS " ESSENTIALLY MIDDLE CLASS". HE EXPECTS THEM TO CONTINUE POLICY INSTITUTED BY NGOUABI OF SEEKING IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH US, AND SUSPECTS THEY WILL DO BETTER JOB OF IT THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN TRUE OF LATE PRESIDENT.

3. PRESIDENT SPECULATED THAT COUP MAY IN FACT HAVE RESULTED FROM JEALOUSY OF MEMBERS OF INNER CIRCLE AT INITIAL SUCCESS OF NGOUABI APPROACHES TO FRENCH. BONGO SUGGESTED THAT CONSPIRATORS MAY HAVE FELT THEY COULD CONTROL NGOUABI SO LONG AS CONGO REMAINED POOR, BUT THAT HE WOULD GAIN TOO MUCH FREEDOM OF ACTION

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ONCE FRENCH (AND PERHAPS EVENTUALLY AMERICAN) MONEY BECAME AVAILABLE TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION. PRESIDENT FURTHER SPECULATED THAT MOBUTU MAY HAVE HAD HAND IN STIMULATING COUP AGAINST NGOUABI IN HOPE OF PRODUCING MORE MODERATE REGIME. STEIGMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BONGO MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CONGO BRAZZAVILLE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, CF, GB, (NGOUABI, MARIEN), (MOBUTU SESE SEKO), (BONGO, EL HADJ OMAR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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